



DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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INTERPRETIVE OPINION

Pursuant to §103-50, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), all buildings and facilities constructed by, or on behalf of the State or any county, shall conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and amendments. In accordance to HRS §103-50 and Chapter 11-217, Hawaii Administrative Rules, the Disability and Communication Access Board has authority to issue interpretive opinions to HRS §103-50 design standards.

Docket: **DCAB 2008-06:** Do the technical requirements in the ADA/ABA AG, Section 410 Platform Lifts, provide equivalent facilitation to the technical requirements in the ADAAG, Section 4.11 Platform Lifts (Wheelchair lifts)?

Summary: The ADAAG allows deviations from the guidelines as equivalent facilitation when it can be shown that the alternative provides substantially equivalent or greater access and usability. The current ADAAG has minimal guidelines for platform lifts as compared to the new ADA/ABA AG. The guidelines for platform lifts in the ADA/ABA AG appear to be equivalent to the ADAAG.

The referenced technical sections of the current ADAAG that apply to the platform lifts, '4.2.4 Clear Floor or Ground Space for a Wheelchair' and '4.5 Ground and Floor Surfaces', are included in the new ADA/ABA AG. The technical requirements for '4.27 Controls and Operating Mechanisms' are the same as the new ADA/ABA AG with the exception of what defines an accessible reach range. The new ADA/ABA AG is more stringent in that the accessible reach range for both a forward as well as parallel approach is 48 inches maximum where there is no obstruction. The new ADA/ABA AG is more specific in that it states the lift 'cannot be attendant controlled' whereas the current ADAAG states it needs to be 'independently operable'. The new ADA/ABA AG is also more stringent in that an emergency power source is required where the platform lift is part of a means of egress.

Ruling: For buildings or facilities subject to HRS §103-50,

ADAAG Section 4.11 Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts).

The technical requirements of the 2004 ADA/ABA AG, Section 410 Platform Lifts, provide equivalent facilitation to the technical requirements of the ADAAG, Section 4.11 Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts).

[Rul: 07/16/08] (Auth and Imp: HRS §103-50)

If you have any questions or comments regarding this ruling, please call us at 586-8121.

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